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EARLY CONDUCT OF ORANGEMEN.

The following speech of Lord Gosford, and the consequent proceedings of the Magistrates of the county of Armagh, having been referred to in the preceding speech of Counsellor O'Connell, as well as on many other occasions, we have procured an authentic copy. It may be curious as a document for future reference, as it exhibits a just delineation of the horrid features of the Orange system in its infancy.

Armagh, Dec. 28, 1795.

At a numerous meeting of the Magistrates of the County Armagh, convened at the special instance of Lord Viscount Gosford, Governor, his Lordship having taken the chair, opened the business by the following address :—

Gentlemen, having requested your attendance here this day, it becomes my duty to state the grounds upon which I thought it advisable to propose this meeting; and at the same time to submit to your consideration a plan which occurs to me as most likely to check the enormities that have already disgraced this county, and may soon reduce it into the greatest distress. It is no secret, that a persecution, accompanied with all the circumstances of ferocious cruelty which have in all ages distinguished that dreadful calamity, is now raging in this county. Neither age, nor even acknowledged innocence as to the late disturbances, is sufficient to excite mercy, much less afford protection. The only crime which the wretched objects of this merciless persecution are charged with, is a crime of easy proof; it is simply a profession of the Roman Catholic faith. A lawless banditti have constituted themselves judges of this species of delinquency, and the sentence they pronounce is equally concise and terrible; it is nothing less than confiscation of all property, and immediate banishment. It would be extremely painful, and surely unnecessary to detail the horrors that attended the execution of so wide and tremendous a proscription, that certainly exceeds in the comparative number of those it consigns to ruin and misery, every example that ancient or modern history can afford; for where have we read, or in what history of human cruelties have we heard of more than half the inhabitants of a populous county deprived at one blow of the means, as

well as of the fruits of their industry, and driven, in the midst of an inclement winter, to seek a shelter for themselves and their helpless families, where chance may guide them? This is no exaggerated picture of the horrid scenes now acting in this county, yet surely it is sufficient to awaken sentiments of indignation and compassion in the coldest breast. Those horrors are now acting, and acting with impunity. The spirit of impartial justice (without which law is nothing better than tyranny) has for a time disappeared in this county; and the supineness of the magistracy of this county is a topic of conversation in every corner of this kingdom. It is said the Catholics are dangerous. They may be so. They may be dangerous from their numbers, and still more dangerous from the unbounded views they have been encouraged to entertain; but I will venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, that upon these very grounds those terrible proceedings are not more contrary to humanity than they are to sound policy and justice. I have the honour to hold a situation in this county which calls upon me to deliver my sentiments, and I do so without fear or disguise. I am as true a Protestant as any man in this room, or in this kingdom. I inherit a property which my family derived under a Protestant title; and with the blessing of God, I will maintain that title to the utmost of my power. I will never consent to make a surrender of Protestant ascendancy to Catholic claims, with whatever menaces they may be urged, or however speciously or invidiously supported. Conscious of my sincerity in this public declaration, which I do not make unadvisedly, but as the result of mature deliberation, I defy the paltry insinuations that malice or party spirit may suggest. I know my own heart, and should despise myself if, under any intimidation, I could close my eyes against such scenes as present themselves on every side, or shut my eyes against the complaints of a persecuted people. I have now acquitted myself to my conscience and my country, and take the liberty of preparing the following resolutions:

First, That it appears to this meeting that the county Armagh is at this time in a state of uncommon disorder. That the Roman Catholic inhabitants are grievously oppressed by lawless persons unknown, who attack and plunder their houses by night, with instant destruction,

unless they immediately abandon their lands and habitations.

Second, That a committee of Magistrates be appointed to sit on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the chapter-room of the Cathedral Church of Armagh, to receive information respecting all persons, of whatever descriptions, who disturb the peace of this county.

Third, That the instructions of the whole body of the Magistracy to their committee shall be to use every legal means within their power to stop the progress of the persecution now coming on by an ungovernable mob against the Catholics of this county.

Fourth, That said committee, or any three of them, be empowered to expend any sum of money for information or secret service, out of the funds subscribed by the gentlemen of this county.

Fifth, That a meeting of the whole magistracy of this county be held every second Monday, at the house of Charles M'Reynolds, to hear the reports of their committee, and to give such further instructions as the exigency of the times may require.

Sixth, That offenders of every description in the present disturbances shall be prosecuted at the public expence, out of the funds subscribed by the gentlemen of this county; and to carry this resolution into effect, it is resolved that Mr. Arthur Irwin be appointed law agent to the Magistrates.

The above resolutions being read, were unanimously agreed to, and the committee nominated. Lord Gosford having left the chair, and Sir Capel Molyneux being requested to take it,

Resolved, That the unanimous thanks of this meeting be presented to Lord Viscount Gosford, for his proper conduct in convening the Magistrates of the county, and his impartiality in the chair.

Gosford.
 Capel Molyneux.
 William Richardson.
 Arthur Jacob M'Can.
 Robert Bernard Sparrow.
 Alexander Thomas Steuart.
 Michael Obins.
 Hugh Hamilton.
 Joshua M'Geough.
 James Verner.
 Richard Allott.
 Stewart Blacker.
 Robert Livingston.
 John Ogle.
 William Clarke.
 Charles M. Warburton.
 William Lodge.
 William Biset.
 Thomas Quin.
 Owen O'Callaghan.
 John Maxwell.
 William Irwin.
 James Harden.
 James Dawson.
 William Barker.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

ON the first day of the Year, we purchased a Dublin Almanac, not so much for the purpose of seeing the changes of the Moon, or the high feasts and fasts of the calendar, as for marking the mutations that have occurred in the world around us; the vicissitudes of human affairs; how many, in this battle of life, yet bold to their *posts* and their *places*; and how many have been shouldered, since the last year, into the gulf of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion!

We looked over the pages of this heterogeneous assemblage of names, from the high treasury-board, to the petty barrack master, not, we acknowledge, with those gloting eyes which placemen and pensioners, in all their gradations, throw upon this blest and blessing-book, when, after an evening's careful study of its invaluable contents, they exclaim, in the satisfaction of their souls, "Oh! how much better than Blackstone and De Lolme, does this precious vo-